

all other things, can be made to subserve, viz.: training the mind to grasp abstract ideas and to bring the various parts of an extensive subject into mental co-ordination. This is education, the very essence of intellectual power. Mind you, I am not discussing the advance of science; I am discussing the advance of man!

When George Eliot, one of the foremost philosophic minds of the age, was finding pleasure in learning the names of the plants of Ilfracombe as "part of the tendency that is now constantly growing in me to escape from all vagueness and inaccuracy into the daylight of distinct, vivid ideas;" when John Stuart Mill was botanizing over the moors of England and turning aside at Avignon to tramp up the bed of the Durance collecting—of all things—willows! are we to suppose for a moment that these two eminently clear-headed persons did not know whether they were wasting their time or not? Nay, so far as Mill is concerned, we know that he made a very considerable herbarium, doing the work with his own hands, and we may safely infer his motive from what he says in the *Logic*: "The proper arrangement of a code of laws depends upon the same scientific conditions as the classifications in natural history; nor could there be a better preparatory discipline for that important function than a study of the principles of a natural arrangement, *not only in the abstract, but in their actual application to the class of phenomena for which they were first elaborated, and which are still the best school for learning their use.*" If popular interest in systematic botany has "declined" in this country, the causes are not far to seek, and it were an ungracious task to recount them here. The indications are that they have already spent their force.

Rockford, Ill.

M. S. BEBB.

The death of Dr. DeBary.

EDITORS OF BOTANICAL GAZETTE: I promised to write you a few lines in December, from the laboratory in Germany in which I might be at work, but knowing that I decided to enter Professor DeBary's laboratory for the winter semester, you can readily understand how I deferred writing from week to week, hoping that I might send some cheering and hopeful word in regard to its distinguished and beloved chief. Unhappily, my first word to you is to chronicle his death, which occurred at half-past two on the afternoon of January 19. Of this event you will have heard before my letter reaches you, and others of our own country, who knew DeBary and his work infinitely better than I, will, no doubt, furnish your readers with such biographical and critical notices as you may desire; but possibly a few words in regard to his illness and death by one near at hand may not be uninteresting.

Professor DeBary was much annoyed toward the close of the summer semester by pains in his face, supposed to be neuralgic or else arising from the teeth. He made a voyage to England, to attend the meeting of the British Association, I think. This and the return voyage seemed to aggravate his trouble. On account of the inflammation and alarming character of the disease upon his face, a surgical operation became necessary about October 1. He was completely prostrated from the disease and loss of blood, remaining in the care of nurses for several weeks at the Bürger Spital in Strassburg, where the operation was performed. His return to his residence, which, according to an arrangement not infrequent with other prominent German professors, is in the Botanical Institute—i. e., the building devoted to botanical work—was looked forward to with much silent interest by the little corps of special student

and the instructors, as we all hoped that, according to his own desire and anticipations, he would soon be with us to direct the laboratory work as of old. He came down soon after November 1, and the week after delighted everybody by coming into the laboratory. These visits continued, with some interruptions, for several weeks. I had the pleasure of meeting him, of talking with him to a limited extent, and occasionally he would inquire how my work was progressing. He appeared, as he was said to be, the kindest of men to those who worked under him. He was quick and intense in all his movements and operations. Every action and word of his former pupils show not only a profound regard for him as an authority in science and a great teacher, but a genuine affection for him as a man and a friend. It was clear, however, that his nerves and general health and strength were greatly affected; his visits became rarer, and soon after December 1 he appeared no more in his laboratory. During the holidays his colleague, Professor Dr. Zacharias, who has directed my own work in DeBary's absence, and who has been, both officially and personally, very kind and delightful in his intercourse with me, informed me that all hope of Professor DeBary's recovery had been abandoned. He suffered very much until within a few days of his death, when he became partially unconscious.

His death is regarded here as a very great loss to this university, as it is everywhere to the scientific world. He was only 57, hence only in his prime as a scientific investigator, and therefore all botanists lament the valuable work DeBary might have accomplished had he been spared. His fellow townsmen and university colleagues, while knowing well his world-wide reputation, feel strongly the loss of his well-balanced judgment, and his lively interest in all worthy objects connected with Strassburg affairs. He often attended the horticultural society of Elsass, as well as their agricultural society, and in university circles his knowledge of men and affairs was regarded as very superior; and his judgment had great weight in such questions as the selection of professors and the development of new lines of university work.

The burial service at the Botanical Institute was on Sunday, January 22, conducted by the Lutheran pastor of the *Neue Kirche*, Strassburg. Besides his remarks, and a burial hymn, sung by members of the student musical club, addresses were also made by Professor Kussmaul, of the medical faculty, Professor Fittig, of the chemical department, and Professor Zoepffel, rector of the university. Furthermore, notwithstanding the rain which fell at short intervals, the great affection felt for DeBary was shown by the large number of students, professors and other friends who walked in the long procession escorting his remains across the city, through the Weissthurm Gate, to the little cemetery beyond the walls called *Kirchhof St. Gallen*. Nearly all the student "corps" and *Verbindungen* were represented. De Bary was even greater as a teacher and organizer of work, I am disposed to believe, than as an investigator. In enumerating those who have been his pupils, or worked in his laboratory, the list seems to include a great majority of those young and middle-aged men now engaged in the most advanced lines of botanical work in the world. Several of these old pupils were present at the burial, among them Count Solms-Laubach and Professor Stahl.

To-day it is announced that Count Solms, who had already accepted a call from Göttingen to Berlin, will recall his acceptance of the Berlin position in order to become DeBary's successor here at Strassburg.

Strassburg.

WILLIAM R. DUDLEY.